

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL
COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Lara Kritzer, JM Goldson
community preservation + planning

Organization: Hanson Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): June 2018

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form
Number

64-0-11-0

Hanover

HNS.214

Town/City: Hanson

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Address: 671 High Street

Historic Name: Isaac and Abigail Thomas
House

Uses: Present: Single-Family Dwelling

Original: Single-Family Dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1840

Source: White's History, Plan No. 6, Page 111

Style/Form: No Style

Architect/Builder: Deacon George F. Stetson

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Granite

Wall/Trim: Vinyl/Vinyl

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Small shed/guest house located to the west of the garage.

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Three different additions to the west façade including a one-and-a-half story addition, one-story addition, and two car garage, vinyl clapboard siding and vinyl replacement windows

Condition: Fair

Moved: no ☒

yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: .28 Acres

Setting: Located near the center of Hanson on one of its main thoroughfares and adjacent to the First Congregational Church, the house sits in an area of predominantly single-family homes built near the road on spacious lots which includes grass lawns and numerous mature trees, bushes, and other vegetation.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The two-story building has an asphalt shingled gable-roof over its original rectangular footprint. Two narrow brick chimneys extend from the east roof slope with the one on the southern end located farther down the roof slope than the one on the northern end. The house has had at least four additions to its west façade including a one-and-a-half story addition to the northwest corner of the west façade, one-story addition to the west and north façades of that first addition, and a two-car garage extending from the west façade of the second addition. The entire house is finished in vinyl clapboard siding and any original trim or detailing has been removed or covered in vinyl as well. The roof on the gable facades extends just far enough to provide space for the vinyl wrapped eaves, while on the north and south gable-ends, the roof has a more prominent overhang with wider, but also vinyl clad, eaves and soffits with short returns visible at each corner. The double hung windows have also been replaced with six-over-six double hung windows. The first and second floor windows on the east, north and south facades of the house, and the first floor windows on the south façade of the first addition, are all flanked by narrow vinyl shutters installed on the siding outside of each window frame.

The house faces east towards High Street and sits high above the street on a long but narrow lot that slopes down to the east. The east façade is perfectly symmetrical with five windows across the second floor and two located to either side of the entrance at the center of the first floor. The entrance has a solid wood paneled door flanked by sidelights which each have five large, rectangular panes over low wooden panels. The entrance opens onto a stone landing with stone steps leading into the grass lawn.

The long south façade faces Independence Avenue and includes a single window in the gable end of the wide original structure over two windows on each floor below. The first addition is located in the northwest corner of the west façade and has a lower cross-gable roof that begins about a foot above the eaves of the main roof. A shed roofed wall dormer begins at the center of its south facade with two double hung windows in its south face. Below, the south façade of the addition is unusually tall, with a large double hung window to either side of the side entrance at its center. The side entry opens only a narrow wood porch which spans the length of this first addition ending in a short set of wood steps at the center of its south side. On the west façade of this first addition is a lower gable roofed, one-story addition with two pairs of double hung windows in its south façade. This addition is set in from the corners of the first addition but appears to be nearly as long. On the west façade of this one-story addition is a large two car garage which is taller and wider than the addition, extending out in all directions from its attachment to the house. The garage has two garage door openings on its south facade, each with a paneled overhead replacement door. The tall and deep addition also has two double hung windows located on its west façade.

The west façade of the original house matches that of the east façade. In its northwest corner, though, the first floor extends out slightly under a low sloping roof to what appears to be a fourth addition to the west façade. This also has a cross-gable roof but is only one-story in height and appears to connect to the other additions in a long, shed style southern roof slope, although this connection is not clear from the street. A wood board privacy fence with tall, capped wood posts extends from the northeast corner of this last addition to the north, where it

Continuation sheet 2

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eventually turns to enclose the north side of the backyard. Although not visible to the street, Google aerial views of the site show that the fencing encloses a pool and freestanding pool house structure.

To the west of the garage, a short span of picket fencing has a gate at its center surrounded by an arched trellis. This fence connects the garage to a separate building to the west of the house. The gable-end roofed structure faces east to the street and appears to be a small cottage. The house has a door and window in the left side of its east façade, while the north corner has been cut in to create an integral porch on the north façade of the building. Two double hung windows on the south façade of this small house are well screened by the evergreens surrounding the foundation on this side of the building. A tall wood stockade fence runs from the southwest corner of this building to the west property line. Mature trees are located to the east and south of the house and dot the long, sweeping lawn surrounding the building. Evergreen bushes are lined up along the east and south façade of the house. An asphalt paved driveway extends from High Street through the yard and along the south façade of the house, with a second entrance to Independence Avenue located across from the garage.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

According to White's History of Hanson, the present house at 671 High Street was built in 1840 by Deacon George F. Stetson for Isaac Thomas using lumber from an old house taken down at the time. At the time, White notes that there was a row of sycamore trees on each side of the street between this house and the former parsonage for the Congregational Church to the south. George F. Stetson (1809-1859) is listed as a shoemaker in the Massachusetts 1850 Census but is also listed as a farmer in the U.S. Censuses of the mid-nineteenth century and may have also worked as a builder. Isaac Thomas (1815-1893), was the son of Josiah and Phebe (Fuller) Thomas. The 1830 Smith Plan shows I. Thomas, or possibly J. Thomas, as the owner of the site and the original house. Isaac, born June 15, 1815, was a farmer and the existing house on High Street was likely built to celebrate his marriage to Abigail (Abbie) Thomas on December 12, 1841. Together, they had six children. The home stayed in the Thomas Family, showing "I. Thomas" as the owner on both the 1856 Walling Atlas and 1879 Walker Atlas. Isaac died on January 22, 1893 at age 77. After his death, the 1903 Richards Atlas shows the property as still belonging to the "Isaac Thomas Est."

Daniel H. Foster, a shoe and clothing merchant according to the 1930 U.S. Census, and Verna (nee Root) Foster purchased the home in 1911 from Isaac Thomas' heirs.¹ The 1910 and 1920 census shows Daniel's occupation as a vanner, or shoe stitcher, at a shoe factory. He may have lost his job if his factory closed during the depression as the house was foreclosed on in 1934 and transferred to the Home Owners Loan Corporation.² Daniel Foster died five years later on March 15, 1939.

Francis H. and Doris M. Cox (1918-1992) purchased the "two story dwelling house, barn and farm buildings" from Home Owners Loan Corporation in 1943.³ Francis died August 18, 1990. Doris continued to live at 671 High Street with her daughter, Nancy, until her death in May 1992.⁴ After Doris' death, Robert L. and Nancy E. Cox, executors of the will, sold the property in 1993 to Madeline M. and Robert J. McCarthy.⁵ The McCarthy's sold the home to current owners Brian and Sarah Desantes in 2011.⁶

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

¹ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 1076, Page 370

² Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 1655, Page 187-191

³ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 01851, Page 6

⁴ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 12051, Page 164

⁵ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 12051, page 164; Book 40660, Page 1-3

⁶ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 40660, Page 1-3

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